

Message Text

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47

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-12 OIC-04 T-03

AEC-11 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 /156 W

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P R 141435 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7780

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2010

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM IT NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: ITALIAN CONCERN OVER UK TACTICS PROPOSAL

FOR USREP MBFR

REF: A. ROME 1853 B. VIENNA 2003 C. VIENNA 1999 D. USNATO 1250

1. IN MARCH 14 DISCUSSION OF LATEST MBFR DEVELOPMENTS, FONOFF

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ACTING CHIEF DISARMAMENT OFFICE EXPRESSED CONTINUING CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE ALLIANCE RECOURSE TO UK " ALL 19" FORMULA. OFFICIAL NOTED THAT ITALIANS HAD ACCEPTED NATO SYG MARCH 13 COMMUNICATION TO AD HOC GROUP WITH RELUCTANCE SINCE IT CONTAINED REFERENCE TO UK FORMULA BUT HAD JOINED CONSENSUS IN INTEREST OF ALLIED UNITY AND COMMON DESIRE TO MOVE FORWARD ON PARTICIPATION QUESTION. HOWEVER, ACCORDING SOURCE, GOI AGREEMENT TO SYG'S COMMUNICATION WAS PREDICATED ON THE BELIEF THAT VAGUENESS OF REFERENCE TO UK VIEWS ON TACTICS (PARA B, USNATO 1242) REQUIRED THAT DECISION ON USE OF THESE TACTICS MUST BE REFERRED TO NAC IN EVENT US APPROACH REJECTED BY SOVIETS. OFFICIAL SAID THAT WRITTEN NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT HAD BEEN PASSED TO SYG'S OFFICE (REF D).

2. DISCUSSION IN AD HOC GROUP MEETING MORNING MARCH 12 PROVIDED ITALIANS WITH REASSURANCE THAT AHG AS A WHOLE SHARED GOI VIEW ON THE NECESSITY OF FURTHER REFERRAL OF UK FORMULA TO NAC PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION (REF B). HOWEVER, PHONE CALL FROM ITALIAN MBFR REP (PETRIGNANI) LATE MARCH 13 ALERTED FONOFF TO FACT THAT, IN REALITY, THERE CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERABLE DIVISION OF OPINION IN AHG WITH SOME SUPPORT FOR USE OF UK FORMULA WITHOUT FURTHER RECOURSE TO NAC. FONOFF SOURCE EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN OVER THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND ASKED HOW US VIEWED THE QUESTION, NOTING THAT US REP HAD BEEN GENERALLY SILENT ON THE ISSUE WHEN IT WAS LAST DISCUSSED.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT ITALIANS REGARD UK FORMULA AS IMPORTANT MATTER OF PRINCIPLE ON WHICH HINGES EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION STATUS FOR ITALY. IT SEEMS LIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT IF USE OF FORMULA IS PROPOSED BY MEMBERS OF AHG DURING CURRENT PROBE WITH SOVIETS OR FOLLOWING POSSIBLE REJECTION OF US APPROACH, ITALIANS WILL MAKE STRONG POINT OF NEED TO REFER QUESTION BACK TO NAC AND WILL LOOK TO US FOR SUPPORT IN THIS REGARD. VOLPE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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COPENHAGEN
LISBON
PM

SECSTATE WASHDC
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